

King County Healthcare Coalition

Monthly Update

November 30, 2006
Healthcare Coalition Monthly Update

The Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to coordinating their emergency preparedness and response activities. The purpose of the Coalition is to develop and maintain a comprehensive system that assures coordination, effective communications, and optimal use of available health resources in response to emergencies and disasters.

The Healthcare Coalition is comprised of over 45 member and partner healthcare organizations and agencies. The next meeting of executives from Coalition member and partner organizations will be in the spring of 2007. Current priorities include pandemic flu and surge planning, strengthening the governance structure through the creation of the Executive Council, recruiting more Coalition members from non-hospital providers, and developing a sustainable organization. There is now a web page for the Coalition that can be accessed through the Public Health website (www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition).
(Coalition staff contacts – Cynthia Dold 206-205-0456 and Lydia Ortega 206-296-5079)

WORKGROUP/ COMMITTEE INFORMATION & UPDATES

Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

(Staff contact–Aimee Welch, PHSKC at 206-205-4145)

The ACPWG is developing surge capacity plans for ambulatory care and triage services. The group is developing strategies that will expand outpatient care and telephone triage and reduce demand on hospital emergency rooms and inpatient facilities.

- The workgroup has completed its Contingency Plans for the Ambulatory Care Response to Pandemic Influenza.
www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/ambulatory
- The workgroup reconvened in October to focus on developing an organizational structure for ambulatory system decisions for all hazards while strengthening site preparedness and developing mechanisms for coordinated decision making and response activities.
- Subsequent meetings will be held at the King County Medical Society Building on the 1st Wed of each month beginning December 6, 2006.
- The workgroup is currently beginning to gather information about ambulatory care providers for resource coordination including antiviral distribution.

Critical Care Work Group

(Staff contacts – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PHSKC at 206-296-4814, Dr. Lewis Robinson, PHSKC at 206-205-5091), Dr. Mark Tonelli, UWMC, at tonelli@u.washington.edu.

The Critical Care Workgroup is comprised of Critical Care Directors from Coalition hospitals. The Workgroup will develop altered standards of care and clinical and staffing guidelines for mass critical care.

- Dr. Mark Tonelli, Dr. Lewis Robinson and Dr. Jeff Duchin continue to work to facilitate the activities of the workgroup.
- The workgroup will be engaged in 3 primary activities in the upcoming months:
 - An evaluation of automatic resuscitators for definitive mechanical ventilation during emergencies.
 - Operational Guidance for standardized augmentation of critical care services when traditional critical care sites capabilities are far exceeded.
 - Standardized allocation of critical care interventions for emergency mass critical care including recommendations for triage algorithms.

Infectious Disease Workgroup (Lead- Jeff Duchin, MD, PHSKC at (206) 296-4814)

This workgroup is made up of Infectious Disease Specialists and representatives from the local Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

- The Infectious Disease Workgroup held its first meeting on September 7, 2006. Representatives from seven Coalition hospitals attended the meeting. Dr. Duchin led the discussion and focused on pandemic flu planning and infection control issues. The group will continue to meet to discuss infection control, antiviral drug use, and other relevant topics.
- Workgroup members were encouraged to become more actively involved in pandemic Flu and other emergency preparedness planning in their respective organizations.

Legal Work Group

(Staff contact – Amy Eiden, PHSKC at 206-206-8969)

This group is comprised of attorneys representing healthcare organizations and government entities in King County.

- The workgroup has reviewed a recommended model procedure for delivery of Health Officer Isolation Orders to hospitalized persons.
- The group is also conducting an analysis of legal issues that could arise during a large scale emergency response. This work is being coordinated with a cross-jurisdictional legal workgroup that includes representation from state agencies and other counties.
- A review of the draft “Bench Book” was also completed recently by the workgroup. The bench book is for use by Superior Court Judges during a public health emergency. It is being developed by the King County Superior Court and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

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Medical Directors Committee

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PHSKC at 206-296-4814)
The Medical Directors will provide expertise and leadership for issues related to clinical care during any health emergency where large-scale emergency response and/or changes in routine healthcare delivery are necessary. The Medical Directors will review and develop clinical policies, protocols, practice standards, and plans that are relevant to emergency response.

- The Medical Directors have discussed potential medical resource distribution approaches, surge models and Pandemic Flu employee training.
- Dr. Kathryn Koelema and Dr. Jeff Duchin have developed a series of PowerPoint presentations entitled *Preparing for Pandemic Flu: What our Healthcare Workers Need to Know*, *Healthcare Worker Ability & Willingness during Pandemic Flu*, and *ICS for Clinicians: What we Need to Know and Why We Need to Know It*. The presentations can be utilized for training healthcare workers. They are available for review at the link below :

www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/presentations.htm

Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

(Staff contact – Cynthia Dold, PHSKC at 206-205-0456, Danica Mann (Hospital Training and Exercises, 206-947-5565)

This committee meets monthly to discuss a variety of hospital and healthcare emergency preparedness issues which includes surge capacity, evacuation planning, resource management, and training & exercises.

The HRSA 2005 grant cycle ended August 31st. The 2006 grant cycle began September 1st. In 2006, the hospitals have elected to continue of the support of training, exercises, and plan development with assistance from Danica Mann. They are supporting the development of the Regional Medical Resource Center through Allison Schletzbaum. In addition, they will be putting funds toward pharmaceutical caching, communications redundancy, evacuation workshops, and identifying resources to support the surge capacity plans.

Hospital Training:

- Region 6 (King County) Homeland Security is providing funding to bring out a Train the Trainer Course for Emergency Department Personnel and EMS Providers. The Basic Disaster Life Support and Advanced Disaster Life Support Trainer the Trainer Courses, available through the Medical College of Georgia, will create a cadre of instructors who will be available to educate hospital and pre-hospital personnel on disaster medical management. To register please contact: Lydia.Ortega@metrokc.gov

- The hospitals will be participating in Evacuation workshops March 27, 28 and 29, 2007. These 1-day workshops will be held in each emergency response zone. Emergency Managers, Fire partners and Assisted Living Facilities will be invited to participate in the workshops to create awareness around hospital evacuation needs and evacuation planning.

Exercises:

- Region 6 Hospitals will be participating in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise in May. It will follow the Evacuation Workshops and we hope to incorporate some evacuation testing into the drill as well as test packaging patients and pushing them out of this area working with our NDMS partners.

Planning:

- The Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Plan is currently under revision. The plan has been created and will be coordinated through the Regional Hospital Preparedness Manager. Individuals from different organizations have been assigned as primary reviewers for each section. As the plan is updated it will go out for review to the Strategy Group followed by the Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee and lastly to Regional Partners. Updates to the plan will be completed by the end of the grant cycle in August of 2007.

Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

(Staff contact – Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213)

The RMRC is the linchpin for coordinated operational preparedness and response. The Center will monitor and distribute human and medical resources among participating Healthcare Coalition organizations and facilities based on the objectives of the emergency response.

- Allison is working to complete multiple projects that will help form the foundation of the King County RMRC. She has written a draft operation plan which is currently under review and revision.
 - The planning team is discussing possible response structures for the RMRC and its relationship to other EOC's and Hospital Control. Potential physical locations for the RMRC are also being explored.
 - In order to meet the incident management and resource tracking needs of the Regional Resource Medical Center, a software workgroup has been established. The group will assist in the development of an RFP for the RMRC incident management software.
 - Work continues on the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) project. A majority of the area hospitals have scheduled appointments to assess their service provider needs.
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Alternate Facilities Project

(Project Manager– Tony Cebollero, PHSKC at 206-205-8621, Dr. Lewis Robinson 206-205-5091)

Tony will work with partners to establish emergency facilities that can provide triage, ambulatory care, observation, and palliative care. These facilities will be designed to supplement the regular health care system in the event of emergencies that generate demand that exceeds existing surge capacity, i.e. “super surge.”

- Tony has begun to review potential sites for alternate care facilities and medication/vaccine dispensing centers. A medication center site has been identified and is being established in the City of Kent. A site review of the city of Renton Community Center is also scheduled for early December.
- A tour of the Connelly Center at Seattle University was conducted in late October. It may serve as a possible site for an Alternate Care Facility; however a follow up meeting will be scheduled.
- Dr. Lewis Robinson has initiated the planning process for alternate facilities that will provide triage, urgent care and palliative care.

King County Call Center Project

(Project Manager, Joe Cropley, Washington Poison Control, 206-517-2383)

This project will document the existing call center capacity of participating health-related and medical organizations and will develop strategies to increase capacity. The Project will address medical phone advice and triage, as well as other public information needs. The project will involve the participation of 911 and 211 systems, Group Health and Evergreen Hospital, the Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Management, Sound Telecom, and Public Health.

- Joe has currently built several contacts with organizations and companies that offer call center services. Most recently, he has established health, emergency management, EMS and 911 dispatch contacts in Pierce and Snohomish Counties.
- Joe is also actively working with Allison Schletzbaum, and Fran Clairmont of Qwest, to evaluate telephone systems for each Region 6 Hospital.

OTHER UPDATES

- Free personal and family pandemic flu preparedness brochures: *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: A Personal and Family Guide* is an excellent resource for educating employees about the potential impact of pandemic flu, and giving them the tools and the encouragement to prepare now. Free copies (including delivery) in English and Spanish are available through the Washington State Department of Health Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family_brochure.htm (click on General Store Website link to order brochures).
- The second annual PNWER Region 6 Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies Seminar is scheduled to occur December 5, 2006 at the SeaTac Hilton. For more information go to www.pnwer.org/portal.
- The Washington State Regional Meeting on Pan Influenza for Region 6 will occur on December 7th, 2006 at the SeaTac Doubletree Hotel. For more information please contact Gail L. Zimmerman, Washington State Department of Health - 360.236.4087.
- The Washington State Medical Association will host an Emergency Preparedness Roundtable to discuss “*Is Washington State Prepared?*” The meeting will be held December 8, 2006 at the Doubletree Hotel SeaTac Airport. Please contact Susan Peterson for more information by calling 360.352.4848.
- The King County Healthcare Coalition Executive meeting was held on November 14, 2006 at Harborview Medical Center. A summary of the meeting along with minutes is currently being prepared and will be distributed at a later date.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Ambulatory Care Workgroup
December 6th, 2006 7:30-9:00am @ King County Medical Society
- Healthcare Coalition Legal Workgroup
December 7th, 2006 8:00 – 11:00 am @ Group Health, Conference Room ACC7
- Hospital Strategy Workgroup
December 14th from 7:30-10:00 am @ Northwest Hospital
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting
December 21st, 2006 7:30-10:00 am @ KCECC

For more information about the Healthcare Coalition or this update, contact:

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